AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of optically scanning a target item, comprising:

configuring an optical scanning arrangement with predefine~~ding~~ settings for scanning parameters appropriate to a photographic image;

initiating a scanning operation;

in response to the initiating, optically scanning the target item using the predefined settings to form a digital image of the target item; and

~~automatically~~ converting the digital image into a data file, wherein the scanning and the converting are performed automatically without intervention by a user, and wherein the predefined settings are not defined by the user.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including:

automatically storing the data file.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the storing includes storing the data file on a file system.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, further including specifying a date, and wherein the storing further includes storing the data file on the file system in a folder having a folder name indicative of ~~associated with~~ the date.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the folder name is indicative of ~~associated with~~ a particular month and year.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the scanning parameters are selected from the group consisting of pixel depth, resolution, crop mode, and skew correction mode.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the scanning parameter settings appropriate to a photographic image includes:

pixel depth = 24-bit color;

resolution = 150 dots per inch;

crop mode = automatic border detection; and

skew correction mode = automatic image straightening.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the file system has no folder having a folder name indicative of ~~associated with~~ the date, further including:

creating the folder having the folder name indicative of ~~associated with~~ the date.

9. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the data file is a plurality of data files and wherein the file system has a plurality of folders, further including:

viewing a representation of the plurality of folders; and

viewing a representation of the data files in one of the folders.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A method of automatically organizing digital images, comprising:

acquiring a digital image from an image source;

automatically associating a date with the digital image;

automatically converting the digital image into a data file; and

storing the data file into a folder of a file system, the folder <u>having a folder name</u> indicative of ~~associated with~~ the date.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further including:
creating the folder if no other folder is associated with the date.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the date is the capture date when the image was captured by the image source.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the date is the storage date when the image was converted into a data file.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the ~~data~~ folder <u>name</u> is ~~associated with~~<u>indicative of</u> a particular month and year.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the ~~data~~ folder is selected from a set of ~~data~~ folders.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the digital image is a previously captured image, and wherein the acquiring further includes:
uploading the previously captured image.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the acquiring further includes:
predefining settings for image acquisition parameters appropriate to a photographic image; and
capturing the digital image with the image source according to the predefined settings.

19. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

performing a post-processing operation on the data file.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the performing includes performing an image polishing operation.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the performing includes processing the data file with an application program.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the performing further includes sending the processed data file to a destination.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the destination is a peripheral device.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the peripheral device is selected from the group consisting of a printer and a fax machine.

25. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the application program is selected from the group consisting of an image polishing application, a creative printing application, a photo album application, an e-mail application, and a photo web site upload application.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) An image processing system, comprising:

at least one image source, each image source for providing at least one digital image upon request;

an image capture subsystem coupled to the at least one image source for requesting and receiving the at least one digital image from the at least one image source, the image capture subsystem further for associating a date with each digital image and automatically converting each digital image into a corresponding image file; and

a file system coupled to the image capture subsystem for automatically storing each image file in a selected one of a plurality of data folders, the selected data folder having a folder name indicative of ~~associated with~~ the date.

28. (Original) The image processing system of claim 27, comprising:

an image management subsystem coupled to the image capture subsystem and the file system for viewing the plurality of data folders and the image files in a specified data folder.

29. (Original) The image processing system of claim 28, comprising:

a post-processing subsystem coupled to the image management subsystem for post-processing at least one selected one of the image files.

30. (Original) The image processing system of claim 29, wherein the post-processing subsystem is further coupled to the file system for accessing the selected ones of the image files.

31. (Original) The image processing system of claim 29, comprising:

an image destination coupled to the post-processing subsystem for receiving output data corresponding to at least one selected one of the image files.

32. (Original) The image processing system of claim 27, wherein the date is an image acquisition date provided by the image source.

33. (Original) The image processing system of claim 27, wherein the date is a current date provided by a date subsystem coupled to the image capture subsystem.

34. (Original) The image processing system of claim 27, wherein the at least one image source is an optical scanner, and wherein the image capture subsystem provides predefined settings appropriate to a photographic image to the optical scanner for use in providing the at least one digital image.

35. (Currently amended) A processor-readable medium having processor-executable instructions thereon which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:

acquire a digital image from an image source;

automatically convert the digital image into a data file having a date associated with the digital image; and

store the data file into a data folder of a file system, the folder having a folder name indicative of ~~associated with~~ the date.

36. (Currently amended) A processor-readable medium having processor-executable instructions thereon which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:

configure an optical scanning arrangement with predefined settings for scanning parameters appropriate to a photographic image;

detect an initiation of a scanning operation;

in response to the initiation, optically scan the target item using the predefined settings to form a digital image of the target item; and

~~automatically~~ convert the digital image into a data file, wherein the instructions to scan and convert are performed automatically after the initiation without intervention by a user, and wherein the predefined settings are not defined by the user.

37. (Currently amended) An image processing system, comprising:

means for acquiring a digital image from an image source;

means for automatically converting the digital image into a data file having a date associated with the digital image; and

means for storing the data file into a data folder of a file system, the folder <u>having a folder name indicative of</u> ~~associated with~~ the date.

38. (Currently amended) An image processing system, comprising:

means for <u>configuring an optical scanning arrangement with</u> predefined~~ing~~ settings for scanning parameters appropriate to a photographic image;

<u>means for initiating a scanning operation;</u>

means for optically scanning the target item using the predefined settings to form a digital image of the target item; and

means for ~~automatically~~ converting the digital image into a data file, <u>wherein the scanning and the converting are performed automatically without intervention by a user, and wherein the predefined settings are not defined by the user.</u>

39-40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently amended) An image processing system, comprising:

at least one image source, each image source for providing at least one digital image upon request;

an image capture subsystem coupled to the at least one image source which requests and receives the at least one digital image from the at least one image source, associates a date with each image, and automatically converts each image into a corresponding image file; and

a file system coupled to the image capture subsystem which receives each image file from the image capture subsystem and automatically stores each image file in a selected one of a

plurality of data folders, the selected data folder <u>having a folder name indicative of</u> ~~associated with~~ the date.